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Magma Releases EB7-x8, Designed to Offer Application-Specific Configurability with its Modular and Scalable Architecture

7-slot PCI express expansion system enables customers to unleash a myriad of applications

San Diego, Calif. – March 18, 2009 – Magma, the leading provider of custom-built PCI and PCI Express expansion and connectivity solutions, today announced the launch of its EB7-x8 7-slot expansion sub-system, under its ExpressBox Universal (EBU) product umbrella. The EB7-x8 offers a unique architecture that enables customers the opportunity to achieve true modularity and scalability.

Ideal for server manufacturers, system integrators and/or solution providers who need to augment their I/O subsystems to accommodate off-the-shelf I/O cards, Magma's EB7-x8 is unsurpassed in the industry for its high-performance potential, ease of integration and low software overhead.

With the launch of its EB7-x8 product, Magma has decoupled the host connection mechanism from the PCI Express expansion chassis backplane. An expansion interface card that plugs into one particular PCI Express slot of the expansion chassis communicates with the host through a host interface card in the host machine. The communication media, copper or fiber, and the number of PCI Express lanes resulting in the overall communication bandwidth are configurable with the selection of combination of these two cards.

"Magma's introduction of the EB7-x8 heralds a new family of products which allow the opportunity for our customers to go far beyond the classical expansion chassis applications," said Randy Jones, president and CEO for Magma. "The high-performance capabilities and unique feature set of this product enable customers to build standalone systems such as



workstations and servers, turnkey solutions for clustering servers, and I/O virtualization applications – all areas which Magma is aggressively engaged in pursuing.”

Magma’s EB7-x8 can be easily transformed into a host computer/server with 8 slots of PCI Express when a Root Complex single board computer is installed in one particular slot. Therefore, the remaining 7 PCI Express slots can be populated with any combination of PCI Express I/O cards needed in the system. Moreover, with space and power provided for up to four 3.5” internal hard drives, the chassis could transform into a powerful workstation.

The ability to provide the maximum bandwidth on communication between the host and chassis as compared to similar products in the industry, and also its ability to daisy-chain and drive as many PCI Express slots as the host will allow, makes the EB7-x8 an attractive option.

Key Features of Magma’s EB7-x8:

- Industrial solution for adding up to 7 PCI Express I/O cards to one computer
- Individual PCI Express cards can be turned off without powering down entire computer
- Supports multi-cast for peer to peer communication between slots
- Each of the I/O cards in the 7 PCIe slots can derive auxiliary power
- Provides space and power for up to four 3.5’ internal hard drives
- Communication bandwidth supported between host and EB7-x8 chassis up to 2 Giga Bytes/sec in each direction in simultaneous transmit and receive mode
- Easy ‘plug and play’ installation, supporting seamless integration
- Supports automatic power up control of the chassis by the host
- Supports hot-swappable PCIe slots
- Ability to transform into standalone system
- Ability to daisy-chain as many slots as host configuration will allow
- PCI Express Gen 2 ready



EB7-x8 Product Support

Magma provides EB7-x8 customers with a web-based FAQ, up-to-date product status and availability, sophisticated software tools to track and manage support issues and an infrastructure to resolve product support issues in a timely manner.

Shipping and Availability

The EB7-x8 is currently shipping and is available at:

<http://magma.com/products/pciexpress/eb7-x8/index.html>

About Magma

Magma is the leading provider of custom-built PCI and PCI Express expansion and connectivity solutions for several industries. Manufactured and sold out of San Diego, Calif., Magma provides innovative, high-tech expansion solutions to major original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), resellers and end-users in more than 45 countries. In addition to a broad portfolio of expansion and connectivity related patents, Magma's solutions include: PCI Express Expansion, PCI & PCI-X Expansion, OEM Board-Sets & upgrades. For more information about Magma, please visit www.magma.com

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